

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0096

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 8434

DEPT PLEASE PASS TREASURY FOR SECRETARY SIMON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, IMF, IV, US

SUBJECT: IVORY COAST FINANCE MINISTER WISHES CONTINUE
AS CHAIRMAN IMF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. FINANCE MINISTER KONAN BEDIE ASKED CHARGE TO CALL
SEPTEMBER 10. BEDIE NOTED THAT THE FORTHCOMING IBRD/IMF
MEETING IN MAILA WOULD BE CALLED UPON TO ELECT A NEW
CHAIRMAN OF THE IMF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, A POST WHICH HE
HAS HELD SINCE 1974. BEDIE ASKED US TO CONVEY TO SECRETARY
SIMON THAT HE WAS "AVAILABLE" (DISPONIBLE) FOR ANOTHER TERM
AS CHAIRMAN. HE WAS ANXIOUS TO CONTINUE WORKING ON MANY OF
THE PROJECTS INITIATED IN THE LAST TWO YEARS ON WHICH HE SAID
PROGRESS HAD BEEN SLOWED BY THE WORLD ECONOMIC RECESSION.
HE FELT THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD MADE A GOOD START AND
WANTED TO SEE IT CONTINUE.

2. BEDIE NOTED THAT NO OTHER CANDIDATES FOR THIS
POSITION HAD THUS FAR BEEN PUT FORWARD AND HOPED THAT HE
COULD COUNT ON SECRETARY SIMON'S SUPPORT. HE WAS MAKING
THIS APPROACH TO SELECTED OTHER GOVERNMENTS, BUT WAS
PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO HAVE USG ON HIS SIDE IN VIEW OF
LONG AND CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH SECRETARY SIMON.

3. WE ASSURED BEDIE THAT MESSAGE WOULD BE BROUGHT TO
SECRETARY SIMON'S ATTENTION, BUT OF COURSE MADE NO COMMENT
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AS REGARDS U.S. SUPPORT.

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